

West Midlands Area Rep Newsletter

20th April 2025



Dear Friends,

It's been a while since the last West Midlands Newsletter – hope all is well with you and your sides. 2025 has been a bit quieter in my home club but I've had the chance to join a few local events as an individual so far this year - Flowers of Ilmington's Wassail, Jockey's Plough tour & feast, Gloucester Folk Trail and Oxford Folk Festival, always great to catch-up with those I bumped into.

We're now coming up to St George's Day and May-Day, best wishes for any upcoming events, hope to see you soon.

Best Wishes, Matthew Turvey - West Midlands Area Rep, Morris Ring

News from West Midland Sides

Coventry Morris Men

- CMM enjoyed their usual burst of activity after Christmas consisting of Boxing Day in Kenilworth Castle with Chinewrde Morris and later in Stoneleigh with Coventry Mummers, a community wassail in Coventry (and a pub!), our annual Sword Tour around Coventry City Centre and a Plough Sunday celebration in one of the farming villages east of the City (and a pub!). After that it's been back to the practice grind until everything starts again after Easter. At that point we will become very busy dancing on Easter Monday (Berkswell Windmill). St George's Day (Coventry City Centre), the next Saturday (Market Harborough charity event with Braybrooke Morris and others), our first Tuesday evening (The Broomfield Tavern), the Bank Holiday Earlsdon Festival and successive Tuesday evenings. There are also a couple of possible care home bookings to fit in tied either to St George or May Day.



Faithful City Morris Men

- A lovely mild Spring Day outing to The Acorns Children's Hospice Fund Raiser on Sunday 9th March 2025. Great to see everyone enjoying the early sunshine after what has seemed an interminably long winter.
- Congrats to Jockey MM & thanks again for their 75th celebration on 15th March 2025. An excellent time was had by all.
- The FCMM 2025 Programme is "simmering" and should be on our website from mid-April 2025.
FCMM at Acorns Hospice Garden Party 9 March 2025 Molly in the Woods (Knightwick) Left & Fanny Frail (Evesham) Right



Jockey Morris

Jockey's triumphant return to the Ales circuit

- After an absence of 6 years, Jockey were delighted to host 100 guests at St Nicholas Church Hall in Rowley Regis. Previously we had held feasts, but it was decided to experiment with the ale format to see if it suited the present membership, and the response has been very positive. With guests attending from as far afield as Plymouth, Hampshire and West Yorkshire, it's clear the revival of this event was of interest to a wide circle of people and gives us positive encouragement to have another go next year. It was a very pleasant evening and a fine way to mark the end of our 75th anniversary celebrations.
- We decided to try something a little different foodwise and organised a caterer to bring a selection of Caribbean dishes, which was well received by the guests. It's interesting to note the interest this peaked in many guests and supports the notion that, while cheaper, it's nice to have some variety from the big pot dinners that are often served at these affairs.
- The dancing was a mixture of Cotswold and Border, with guest spots presented by the local Border teams that joined us for the evening. We also had some singing spots from various guests, most notably Jess Arrowsmith giving us a brilliant rendition of 'Doin' the Manch' before dinner, while her husband and past squire of Jockey Richard Arrowsmith covered the after dinner slot with the Blockley Shepherds song. The second song holds a lot of significance within the history of Jockey as it was a favourite of the Jockey's long-time fool, Ray 'Moose' Cope.
- Overall, we are pleased to have brought this event back and are delighted to announce we're planning a return next year on March 21st, so email bagman@jockeymorris.org.uk if you'd like to join us. – Cheesy - D. Squire

Shakespeare Morris:

- During January we held Morris taster sessions where we recruited 4 new members, 3 dancers and 1 musician. They have been learning a core repertoire of dances and will be ready to dance out this season – well done all!
- We begin our danceouts proper this month with Shakespeare's Birthday and St George's Day – but had a good day out in Stratford for Shakespeare Week last month.
- Please count yourselves invited to our Stratford-upon-Avon Day of Dance on the 16th August, Stratford is a fabulous place to dance with lots of appreciative crowds – and we'd be pleased to host you all and share a dance. Deadline for letting us know is 15th June on shakespearemorris@gmail.com. Hope to see you soon!

Morris and Folk Events this month:

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
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| <p>England's Glory Ladies Morris <i>Practice</i> 8pm Innsworth Infant School, Luke Lane, Innsworth GL3 1HJ</p> <p>Wild Oats Morris <i>Practice</i> 7:30-9pm Ruspidge Memorial Hall, Ruspidge, GL14 3AE</p> | <p>1st Folk Session 7:30pm Red Lion, Evesham WR11 4RW (1st Tuesdays)</p> <p>Traditional Singers Club 8.30 -11pm Little Vic, Queen Victoria, Gloucester St, Stroud GL5 1QG (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)</p> <p>Stopwatch Sessions 8pm Somerville Arms Leamington Spa (1st Tuesdays)</p> <p>Celtic music session run by Chris Hall 8pm Carpenter's Arms, Miserden GL6 7JA (Fortnightly)</p> | <p>2nd Witcombe Folk Dance Club 7:30-10pm Witcombe Village Hall GL3 4TB (Fortnightly) (£5)</p> <p>Folk at the Lion 2-4pm Red Lion Hotel Atherstone (1st Wednesdays)</p> <p>Folk Session <i>(Instruments only, no songs)</i> The Plough, Mill Street, Prestbury GL52 3BG (Weekly)</p> <p>Gloucester Folk Choir 7pm St Mary De Crypt Church, Southgate St, Gloucester (Term-time Wednesdays)</p> | <p>3rd 1st Sedgley Morris: <i>Practice</i> 7:30pm Sedgley Community Centre DY3 3UA</p> <p>Folk Session 8pm Fleece Inn, Bretforton WR11 7JE (Weekly)</p> <p>Folk Session 7:30-11pm Clarendon Arms Kenilworth (1st Thursdays)</p> <p>Harbury Folk Club 8-11pm Harbury Village Club (1st Thursdays)</p> <p>Wimberry Step Clog <i>Practice</i> Pludds & District Village Hall, Ashdean Rd, nr Brierley GL17 9UD</p> | <p>4th</p> | <p>5th Highnam Afternoon Dance <i>callers</i> Victoria Yeomans & Rob Dawson 2-5pm Gambier Parry Room, Newent Rd, Highnam GL2 8DG (£4)</p> <p>Cheltenham Ceilidh Club 7:30pm St Luke's Hall GL53 7HP (£5)</p> | <p>6th The Craven Céili 3-6pm The Craven Club, 3-5 Craven St Coventry CV5 8DS (1st Sundays)</p> <p>Keith Hyett & Helen Hill Concert 3pm All Saints Church, Stone, Berkeley GL13 9LT</p> <p>Music session 2pm Beauchamp Arms, Dymock GL18 2AQ (1st Sundays)</p> |
| <p>7th Alvechurch Morris <i>Practice</i> 8:30pm Alvechurch Baptist Church Hall B48 7LG</p> <p>Silurian Border Morris Men <i>Practice</i> 8pm Lyttleton Room, Malvern WR14 2AY</p> | <p>8th Music Session 8pm The Red Lion North Road, Huntley, Gloucester GL19 3DU (2nd Tuesdays)</p> <p>Folk & Shanty Session 7:30-10:30pm Stroud Brewery Kingfisher Business Park Stroud GL5 2BY (2nd Tuesdays)</p> | <p>9th Traditional Song Session (No instruments) 8pm Twelve Bells, 12 Lewis Lane, Cirencester, GL7 1EA (2nd Wednesdays)</p> <p>Music Session with Tony Gibbons 8pm Royal Oak, Bredon GL20 7LW (Every 4 weeks)</p> | <p>10th Folk Club 8pm White Horse, High Street, Mitcheldean GL17 0AT (2nd Thursdays)</p> <p>Fleece Ceilidh Club 7:30pm Fleece Inn, Bretforton WR11 7JE (2nd Thursdays) (£10)</p> | <p>11th Oxford Folk Festival Starts</p> <p>Riverfolk 7:30pm Trout Inn, St John's Bridge, Faringdon Rd, Lechlade GL7 3HA (2nd and last Fridays)</p> | <p>12th Filkins Drift Folk of Gloucester 99-103 Westgate St Gloucester GL1 2PG</p> <p>The Haar <i>(Anglo-Irish Folk Band)</i> 7:30pm Prema Arts Centre, Bethesda Chapel, Uley GL11 5SS (£16)</p> | <p>13th Oxford Folk Festival Ends</p> <p>Folk Session 8pm Fleece Inn, Bretforton WR11 7JE (2nd Sundays)</p> |

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| <p>Folk At The Club <i>Singers Night</i> Churchdown Club, Church Rd, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2ER (1st & 3rd Mondays)</p> <p>Cheltenham Folk Dance Club 7:30-9:30pm Holy Trinity School, Sherborne St, Cheltenham GL52 2JP (Term-time Mondays)</p> <p>Royal Scottish Dance Society Cheltenham Beginners' Classes 7.30-9.30pm St Luke's Church Hall GL53 7HP</p> | <p>Gloucestershire Morris <i>Practice</i> 7:45pm St Mary's Congregational Church, St Marys St, Gloucester, GL1 2QS</p> <p>Miserden Morris <i>Practice</i> Old Town Hall, Shambles, Stroud GL5 1AP</p> | <p>Kenilworth Acoustic Sessions 11:45-1:45pm Kenilworth Centre (Weekly)</p> <p>Forest of Dean Morris <i>Practice</i> 7:30pm Soudley Village Hall, Lower Road, Soudley GL14 2TZ</p> <p>Lassington Oak Morris Men <i>Practice</i> 8pm Old School Room, Highnam GL2 8DG</p> | <p>May Hill Village Dance Group 10-12noon Village Hall, All Saints Rd, May Hill, Longhope GL17 0NL (2nd & 4th Thursdays)</p> <p>Styx of Stroud <i>Practice</i> 7:30-9:30pm British School Hall, OPENhouse, Gloucester St, Stroud GL5 1QG</p> <p>Happenstance Border Morris <i>Practice</i> 7:30-9pm Abbey Fields Community Centre, Back Lane, Winchcombe GL54 5QH</p> | <p>Pete Grassby's Alternate Friday Singaround with Brian & Jenny co-hosting (On Zoom)</p> <p>Folk Harmonies - <i>An evening with the Feast of Fools and Gloucester & Stroud Folk Choirs</i> 7 for 7:30pm Trinity Rooms, Stroud GL6 2HZ (£12)</p> | <p>Gloucester County Folk Dance Club <i>led by Sarah & Paul Collacott</i> 2-5pm St George's Church Hall, Court Rd, Brockworth, GL3 4ET (£5)</p> <p>Dursley Folk Music Session 1:30-4:30pm 'Ye Olde Dursley Hotel' (The Old Bell), Long Street, Dursley GL11 4HL (2nd & 4th Saturdays)</p> | |
| <p>14th Shakespeare Morris <i>Last Practice</i> 8-10pm Bridgetown Primary School, Byron Rd, Stratford CV37 7JP</p> <p>Fox Acoustic Sessions 8-11pm Fox Inn The Square Attleborough Nuneaton CV11 4JY (Weekly)</p> <p>'CovTrad' Traditional Music Session 8:30-11pm Humber Hotel, 1 Humber Rd, Coventry CV3 1BA (Weekly)</p> | <p>15th Kevin Dempsey @ Wurzel Bush Folk Club 8-11pm Rugby West Indian Club, 102 Railway Terrace, Rugby CV21 3HE (Fortnightly)</p> <p>Gloucester Songwriting Circle 7-10:30pm Ed Shed, Folk of Gloucester 99-103 Westgate St Gloucester GL1 2PG (3rd Tuesdays)</p> <p>Music Session 8pm England's Glory London Road, Gloucester GL1 3PB (3rd Tuesdays)</p> | <p>16th Feast of Fiddles Concert 7:30-10:30pm Royal Spa Centre Newbold Terrace, Leamington CV32 4HN (£29)</p> <p>Folk/Acoustic Evening 8pm Carpenter's Arms, Miserden GL6 7JA (Weekly)</p> <p>Rowington Folk Club/ Warwickshire Acapella Singers Circle <i>with Steve & Julie Wrigley + Ken & Pat Rolston</i> (On Zoom) 7:45-11pm (3rd Wednesdays/ Monthly on 16th)</p> | <p>17th Folk Club 7:45pm Cotswold Club 11 High St Minchinhampton GL6 9BN (£2) (Weekly)</p> <p>Music Session 7:30-9:30pm The Oak Coventry Rd Bagington CV8 3AU (3rd Thursdays)</p> <p>Folk Song and Tune session 12:30-3:30pm Folk of Gloucester Westgate St Gloucester GL1 2PG (3rd Thursdays)</p> <p>Music Session 9-11pm Old Fourpenny Shop, Crompton St, Warwick CV34 6HJ (Weekly)</p> | <p>18th Feast of Fiddles Roses Theatre, Sun Street Tewkesbury GL19 5NX</p> | <p>19th Tudor Day 10-4pm Folk of Gloucester 99-103 Westgate St Gloucester GL1 2PG (£4)</p> <p>Pipe and Tabor Workshop 1-2pm Folk of Gloucester 99-103 Westgate St Gloucester GL1 2PG (£4)</p> | <p>20th Folk in the Lounge - Music & Song 8-10pm Denbigh Arms CV23 0QX</p> <p>Mickleton Folk Butchers Arms, Chapel St, Mickleton GL55 6SD (3rd Sundays)</p> |

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| Stroud Morris Dancers <i>Practice</i> 7.30pm Rodborough Tabernacle Church Hall, Tabernacle Walk, Rodborough, Stroud GL5 3UJ | | Celtic Folk Music Session 8pm Fleece Inn The Cross Bretforton WR11 7JE <i>(3rd Wednesdays)</i> | Dylan Fowler 7:30pm Folk of Gloucester 99-103 Westgate St Gloucester GL1 2PG (£15/£10) | | | |
| 21st Tattered Court Border Morris <i>Practice</i> 8-10pm St Mark's Junior School, Robert Burns Ave, Cheltenham GL51 6NU Randwick Easter Ceilidh <i>to The Randwick Wreckers (musicians welcome)</i> 7:30pm Randwick Village Hall | 22nd Coventry Comhaltas – Workshops and Session 7pm - <i>Tin Whistle</i> 7:30pm - <i>All Instruments</i> Hearsall Inn, 45 Craven St, Coventry CV5 8DS (£2/lesson) <i>(Weekly)</i> Music Session 8pm King's Arms, Ross Rd, Newent GL18 1BD <i>(4th Tuesdays)</i> | 23rd St George's Day Belle D'Vain <i>with Pebworth Morris Men & Shakespeare Morris</i> 8pm Fleece Inn The Cross Bretforton WR11 7JE Acoustic Folk Night w/Malc Gurnham & Gill Gilsenan 8-11pm Bedworth Folk Club, Bedworth Social Club, Ringway, Bedworth CV12 8JH Gloucestershire Morris, Lassington Oak MM, Miserden Morris & Styx of Stroud 8pm Carpenter's Arms, Miserden GL6 7JA Ragged & Old Morris Dancers <i>Practice</i> Bussage Village Hall GL6 7DY Music Session with Tony Gibbons 8pm Royal Oak, Bredon GL20 7LW <i>(Every 4 weeks)</i> | 24th Ceilidh with Danger! Ceilidh Band 7:30-10:30pm Copper House Club 142-146 Albion St, Kenilworth CV8 2FZ (£10) The Ballad of Aethelflaed Play 11:30 & 2pm Folk of Gloucester 99-103 Westgate St Gloucester GL1 2PG (£4/£3) Chris Wood Everyman Theatre, Regent Street, Cheltenham GL50 1HQ Lunchtime Session 12-2:30pm Red Lion, North Road, Huntley, Gloucester GL19 3DU | 25th Soup Theatre – Bottom Between the Sheets 1- 2pm Folk of Gloucester 99-103 Westgate St Gloucester GL1 2PG (£10) Pete Grassby's Alternate Friday Singaround <i>with Brian & Jenny co-hosting</i> (On Zoom) | 26th Shakespeare Morris <i>Shakespeare's Birthday Procession</i> Stratford Town Centre The Ballad of Aethelflaed Play 11:30 & 2pm Folk of Gloucester 99-103 Westgate St Gloucester GL1 2PG (£4/£3) | 27th Eliza Carthy Roses Theatre, Sun Street Tewkesbury GL19 5NX Cheltenham Folk Club 8-10pm Stanton Suite, 26 Church St, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham GL53 8AR |
| 28th | 29th | 30th | | | | |

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